



UNITED STATES  
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Community Prosecution

# The Court Report

Covering the Month of  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Police District**  
**August 2005**

*Building Safer Neighborhoods Through Community Partnership*

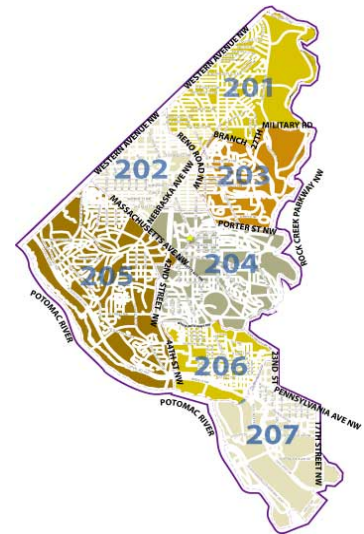
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## SUMMARY OF RECENT COURT CASES

- **Youssef Mahir**, 40, pleaded guilty August 22, 2005 to one count of mail fraud. The maximum penalty that Mahir faces is twenty years of incarceration, three years of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000.
- **Minas Mirza**, 42, also known, as "JACK" and "NINO" pled guilty to two counts of alien smuggling. **Mirza**, faces a maximum of 10 years of imprisonment for violating 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii) by admitting that he brought two aliens into the United States for commercial advantage and private financial gain.
- **Patricia Campblin**, 44, the former office manager for the Washington, D.C. - based law firm of Krooth & Altman, LLP, pled guilty in U.S. District Court to carrying out a scheme to steal money from the law firm's bank account. **Campblin**, faces up to 30 years of incarceration when she is sentenced on November 17, 2005.
- **Adriana Santamaria**, 49, and her sister, **Maria Cabrales**, 46, pleaded guilty in to obtaining funds by fraud from a program receiving federal funds. **Cabrales** and **Santamaria** each face ten years of incarceration for their conduct when they are sentenced on December 2, 2005.

*A detailed descriptions of these and other cases from the 2<sup>nd</sup> District are provided inside of this report.*

## THE 2<sup>ND</sup> POLICE DISTRICT



### Contact Numbers

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## 2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT COMMUNITY PROSECUTION UPDATE



On August 2, 2005, MPD and the U.S. Attorney's Office celebrated National Night Out citywide with a variety of fun events. This celebration was intended to highlight the partnership between the community and law enforcement agencies in reducing crime in the neighbourhood. Throughout the second district, MPD personnel and community members hosted cookouts, softball games, ice cream socials and information tables. This was also a great opportunity for community members to casually chat with members of the U.S. Attorney's office and MPD on what is currently being done to make our neighbourhoods safe. This was a pleasant and enjoyable evening for all.

*Published Monthly by the U.S. Attorney's Office Community Prosecution Team*

# THE COURT REPORT



## DEFENDANTS WHO WERE CONVICTED IN FIREARMS CASES

*Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) initiative, 9 persons were convicted of firearms offenses in August 2005. PSN is a partnership between local and federal agencies to reduce gun violence in the District of Columbia. No offenses that occurred in this district.*

## DISTRICT COURT CASES

**Youssef Mahir, 40, of Alexandria, Virginia, pleaded guilty August 22, 2005 before U.S. District Judge Ricardo M. Urbina to one count of mail fraud. The maximum penalty that Mahir faces is twenty years of incarceration, three years of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000. Under the federal sentencing guidelines, Mahir is likely to receive a sentence of no more than six months in jail. Sentencing is scheduled for December 5, 2005.**

According to the government's evidence, during the period of September 2001 through October 2002, Youssef Mahir was an Account Service Representative for The Center for International Business and Travel ("CIBT"), a travel agency business that is a contractor for the World Bank headquartered at 1818 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. CIBT obtains VISAs and other travel documentation on behalf of the World Bank and its officials. Such VISAs and travel documentation is vital to the work of the World Bank.

In late September 2001, a childhood friend of Youssef Mahir who was a Moroccan national living in Austin, Texas, and in Albany, New York, contacted Mahir and told him that he was planning to go to Morocco in 2001 for personal reasons and needed to obtain a VISA from the Embassy of Germany. Mahir's responsibilities included obtaining visas on behalf of World Bank employees and consultants. His friend told Mahir that he needed the visa quickly. Mahir offered to use his position at CIBT to obtain the necessary VISA for his friend. Mahir told his friend to mail his passport, a copy of his Resident Alien card and two photographs to Mahir at the World Bank. Mahir drafted a World Bank cover letter and VISA application and sent the documents through a courier to the Embassy of Germany in Washington, D.C. In the World Bank cover letter, Mahir represented that the friend was a World Bank consultant and would be traveling on official business for the World Bank. Mahir obtained the multiple-entry visa from the Embassy of Germany on September 25, 2001, and mailed it through the U.S. Postal Service to the friend in Texas. The friend was not then and never had been an employee or consultant for the World Bank.

In August 2002, the friend again contacted Mahir and stated that he wanted to go to Morocco for personal reasons and needed a VISA from the Embassy of France. Mahir offered to

use his position at CIBT to obtain the necessary VISA for his friend. Mahir told his friend to mail his passport, a copy of his Residential Alien card and two photographs to Mahir at the World Bank. Mahir drafted a World Bank cover letter and VISA application and sent the documents through a courier to the Embassy of France in Washington, D.C. In the World Bank cover letter, Mahir represented that his friend was a World Bank consultant and would be traveling on official business for the World Bank. Mahir obtained the multiple-entry visa from the Embassy of France on September 3, 2002.

In October 2002, his friend again contacted Mahir and stated that he wanted to go to Morocco for personal reasons, but wanted to travel through England on a cheaper flight and needed a VISA from the Embassy of the United Kingdom. Mahir offered to use his position at CIBT to obtain the necessary VISA for his friend. Mahir told him to mail his passport, his original Resident Alien card, and two photographs to Mahir at the World Bank. Mahir drafted a World Bank cover letter and visa application and then Mahir mailed his friend's documents via Federal Express from the World Bank to the Consulate of the United Kingdom in New York. In the World Bank cover letter, Mahir represented that his friend was a World Bank consultant and would be traveling on official business for the World Bank. Mahir obtained the multiple-entry VISA from the consulate of the United Kingdom via return Federal Express mail on October 25, 2002. Mahir then mailed his friend's passport with the valid VISA through the U.S. Postal Service to him in Texas. Following an investigation, Mahir was arrested on July 20, 2004.

**Minas Mirza, 42, also known as "JACK" and "NINO", of Warren, Michigan, pleaded guilty on August 19, 2005, to two counts of alien smuggling. Mirza, who entered his guilty pleas before Judge Rosemary M. Collyer of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, faces a maximum of 10 years of imprisonment for violating 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii), admitting that he brought two aliens into the United States for commercial advantage and private financial gain. Mirza also faces a fine of \$250,000.**

Mirza's guilty plea arose from his being charged along with three other persons with smuggling aliens, including citizens of Iraq and other countries in the Middle East, into the United States primarily through South America. The defendants were charged in a five-count superseding indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Washington, D.C., on September 29, 2004, with conspiracy to smuggle aliens into the United States beginning in early 2001 up through the present and bringing unauthorized aliens to the United States for commercial advantage or private financial gain.

According to the indictment, defendant Neeran Zaia owned a business called Universal Investment & Law Services, which she used as a conduit for alleged alien smuggling activities, advertising in Detroit media outlets, including an Arab-language magazine. Ms. Zaia and a co-conspirator also allegedly operated "Saudi-Jordan," a travel agency located in Amman, Jordan, and met there with migrants who wished to enter the United States. The indictment alleges that Ms. Zaia and a co-conspirator recruited aliens in Iraq and Jordan who wished to be taken to the United States in exchange for the payment or promised payment of money - often for thousands of dollars. Ms. Zaia allegedly represented to the migrants that she could procure the appropriate documents to facilitate that travel, in exchange for those payments.

The indictment further alleges that Ms. Zaia and other conspirators promised aliens U.S. visas, but after securing partial payments for those visas, instead provided the aliens with visas from countries in South America. The defendants would allegedly transport the aliens to South American countries as a staging area for entry into the United States, and then once the aliens were in South America, they would demand additional money to bring them into the United States.

In the course of his guilty plea, Mirza admitted his role in the conspiracy and specifically to his having coordinated the arrangements to smuggle two aliens into the United States for personal financial gain and to having personally driven two aliens from Washington, D.C. to Detroit, Michigan. A sentencing date has not yet been scheduled.

**Patricia Campblin, 44, the former office manager for the Washington, D.C. - based law firm of Krooth & Altman, LLP, located at 1850 M Street, NW, pled guilty in U.S. District Court to carrying out a scheme to steal money from the law firm's bank account. Campblin, of the 200 block of Inverness Lane, Fort Washington, Maryland, faces up to 30 years of incarceration when she is sentenced by United States District Judge Reggie Walton on November 17, 2005. Under the federal sentencing guidelines, she faces a likely sentence of ten to sixteen months in prison.**

According to the government's evidence, Campblin, in her position as Krooth & Altman's bookkeeper and, later, office manager, had access to the firm's blank bank checks and was authorized, using Krooth & Altman's computer system, to print checks in order to pay for various authorized business expenses from the firm's Bank of America account. During her employment with Krooth & Altman from 2002 through 2003, Campblin produced or caused to be produced Krooth & Altman checks made payable from the law firm's Bank of America account, and made payable to partners in the law firm, ostensibly in order to reimburse these partners for expenses they had incurred as a result of their business travel, when, in truth and in fact, these partners had not requested the reimbursements. Campblin forged the endorsing signatures of these Krooth & Altman partners on the firm's Bank of America checks in order for the defendant to obtain cash from Krooth & Altman's bank account to which she was not entitled. Campblin then cashed or caused to be cashed the checks at the Bank of America branch in Washington, D.C., and kept the money she was not authorized to receive. The government alleges that Campblin, through this scheme and others, stole over \$30,000.

**Adriana Santamaria, 49, and her sister, Maria Cabrales, 46, both of Centreville, Virginia, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court before the Honorable Henry H. Kennedy, Jr. to obtaining funds by fraud from a program receiving federal funds. Cabrales and Santamaria each face ten years of incarceration for their conduct when they are sentenced on December 2, 2005.**

Between January 1989 and March 2002, Adriana Santamaria was employed as the Administrator of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology (hereinafter "Department")

at the Georgetown University Medical Center (hereinafter "Georgetown"), located at 4000 Reservoir Road, NW, Washington, D.C. Principal Investigators ("Principals") in the Department oversaw research conducted in the fields of microbiology and immunology, and the Department received grant money in excess of \$10,000 a year from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for research in the areas of allergy and infectious diseases; dental and craniofacial diseases; cancer; stroke; and other neurological disorders. As the Administrator of the Department, Santamaria was responsible for hiring, training, and supervising support personnel. Santamaria also oversaw the Department's financial affairs, including budget preparation, spending, and control.

In one such scheme, Santamaria submitted authorization for the payment of honoraria in the names of Cabrales and her husband for scientific lectures they never gave nor had any capacity to give. Santamaria had no authority to engage lecturers on behalf of the Principals, let alone the services of her relatives, who were in no way qualified to speak on any subjects related to the fields of microbiology and immunology. Upon payment, Santamaria and Cabrales would deposit the Department checks in accounts in the names of Cabrales and her husband. In turn, Cabrales would pay Santamaria by check a share of the proceeds. In sum, Santamaria submitted 37 fraudulent expense authorization forms to the Georgetown Accounts Payable Department, resulting in a total of \$290,000 in honoraria paid in the names of Cabrales and her husband for lectures never, in fact, given. In return, during the same period of time, Santamaria received \$69,052.31 from the Allfirst joint accounts of Cabrales and her husband.

In another scheme, between November 1995 and June 1998, Santamaria submitted fraudulent requests to Georgetown for the payment of casual labor by various relatives, including Cabrales. Georgetown hires individuals to work, as casual laborers in circumstances where the work performed by the individual will be for a limited period of time. Santamaria had no authority to hire any individual, let alone her relatives, for temporary employment by the Department without the approval of a Principal. At no time did Principals approve or have knowledge of the hiring of the defendant's relatives. Furthermore, there is no basis to believe that any of these individuals, in fact, performed any service or work for the Department.

Santamaria completed casual labor report forms for her family members and submitted them to payroll. As a result, Georgetown issued checks to those family members, including Cabrales. Santamaria assigned her family member's wages to cost centers associated with Principals in the Microbiology Department. Through this scheme, Santamaria and Cabrales defrauded the Department out of \$87,750.

Another scheme committed by Santamaria occurred between April 1996 and November 1998, during which time Santamaria submitted numerous fraudulent requests for the reimbursement of purported business expenses. Most often, the defendant would submit receipts from restaurants near her residence in Centreville, Virginia, claiming they were for business dinners with Principals or affiliated graduate students. The defendant had no authority or legitimate reason to take graduate students to dinner, and certainly did not receive such authority from any of the Principals listed on the reimbursement forms as having approved the expenses. The forms as such were fraudulently submitted and a review of the receipts revealed that the defendant received payments totaling \$6,816.11 through this scheme.

Between July 1996 and February 2002, Santamaria also submitted fraudulent purchase requisition requests and expense authorization forms to the Accounts Payable Department causing Georgetown to reimburse vendors for unauthorized personal items and services ordered by Santamaria. Santamaria, in her capacity as the Department's Administrator, generated purchase requisitions for products and services for her personal use and assigned those purchases to cost centers associated with Principals. The Principals never requested or approved these purchases.

Finally, between April 2001 and January 2002, Santamaria used her personally issued Department credit card to make numerous personal purchases. In total, the defendant charged \$17,384.57 of purely personal expenses, such as lumber from a home supply store delivered to her home, on her Department issued credit card before the fraud was uncovered.

Because the defendant embezzled allocated research grant money, the Department had to reimburse NIH for not only the direct amount of the embezzlement, but also for the indirect costs that are part of a research grant. Indirect costs, also termed "facilities and administrative costs," are costs such as electricity, water, and administrative support that are not directly tied to a single project.

As a result of their actions, the defendants obtained more than \$350,000 in federal and non-federal grant money from the Department. In addition, the Department reimbursed indirect costs of more than \$150,000 to NIH for disallowed draw downs, for a total loss to the Department in excess of \$500,000.

**Edgar Lopez Bertrand, 65, a naturalized U.S. Citizen who was residing in El Salvador, was sentenced in Houston, Texas, before U.S. District Judge Lee Rosenthal to time-served followed by two years of supervised release, a \$200 Special Assessment, a \$2,000 fine, and reimbursement for attorney and investigator fees. Bertrand pled guilty on July 11, 2005, to two counts of False Statements in the Application for United States Passports. At the time of sentencing, Bertrand had been incarcerated for approximately three months. Pursuant to the federal rules of criminal procedure, the plea proceeding and the sentencing were handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the South District of Texas in Houston, the jurisdiction where Bertrand was arrested, at his request and by agreement between that U.S. Attorney's Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.**

According to the government's evidence, on February 17, 1995, Bertrand presented a fraudulent El Salvadorian birth certificate in the name of Pamela Lopez Bertrand to the Consular Section at the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador, El Salvador. Bertrand claimed that Pamela Lopez Bertrand was his biological daughter. As a result of his representations, a U.S. Department of State Consular Report of Birth Abroad was issued in the name of Pamela Lopez Bertrand certifying her as a U.S. citizen. Bertrand then executed, swore to the veracity of, and signed an Application for U.S. Passport on behalf of Pamela Lopez Bertrand. He presented the fraudulent El Salvadorian birth certificate and other documents in support of the Application for U.S.

Passport. As a result of the application, a U.S. Passport was issued on February 17, 1995, in the name of Pamela Lopez Bertrand.

On February 2, 2000, Bertrand applied for a renewal passport on behalf of Pamela Lopez Bertrand at the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador, El Salvador. He again executed, swore to the veracity of, and signed an Application for U.S. Passport. Bertrand presented the U.S. Passport as proof of identification for Pamela Lopez Bertrand. As a result of the application, a new U.S. Passport was issued in the name of Pamela Lopez Bertrand.

On January 27, 2005, Bertrand executed, swore to the veracity of, and signed an Application for U.S. Passport for a renewal passport on behalf of Pamela Lopez Bertrand at the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador, El Salvador. Bertrand presented the two U.S. Passports issued previously in the name of Pamela Lopez Bertrand, as proof of identity. The Consular Officer, accepting the application, noted the female child bore no physical resemblance to Bertrand. The case was referred to the Regional Security Office, U.S. Embassy San Salvador, El Salvador, for investigation, and Bertrand was interviewed by a Special Agent there. During the interview Bertrand stated, and subsequently wrote in a statement, that Pamela Lopez Bertrand was not his biological daughter and had not been legally adopted by him. Bertrand also stated that the El Salvadorian birth certificate he used to obtain the Consular Report of Birth Abroad was fraudulent.

Bertrand was arrested on May 16, 2005, at Houston's Intercontinental Airport pursuant to an arrest warrant obtained through the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

**Luis Arroyo-Esparza, 45, was sentenced by United States District Judge John D. Bates to six years and five months (77 months) of imprisonment for unlawful reentry of a deported alien following conviction for an aggravated felony. Arroyo-Esparza pled guilty to the charge on May 2, 2005.**

According to the government's evidence, Arroyo-Esparza, a Mexican national, was arrested in Washington, D.C. on August 14, 2005, by the Metropolitan Police Department on unrelated criminal charges. Law enforcement discovered Arroyo-Esparza had previously been deported, and had unlawfully reentered the United States at least four times since 1984. He had a number of prior criminal convictions and arrests dating back to 1984 when he was convicted of robbery with bodily injury in Texas.

**Edwin Gerard Johnson, 22, of 2106 Savannah Terrace, SE, Washington, D.C., pled guilty before the Honorable U.S. District Judge Reggie B. Walton to one count of False Personation of an Officer or Employee of the United States and one count of Interference with Commerce By Threats or Violence. Those federal violations carries a maximum penalty of three and twenty years, respectively. The plea agreement contemplates a 33-month period of incarceration should the Court accept the sentence proposed by the parties when Johnson is sentenced, which is currently scheduled for October 10, 2005.**

According to the government's evidence, on February 16, 2005, at approximately 1:50 a.m., an individual called the United States Marshals Service Communications Center requesting police assistance. The male caller identified himself as "Deputy United States Marshal Ed Johnson." "Deputy Johnson" ("Johnson") informed the official at the Center that he was a Deputy U.S. Marshal from the U.S. District Court Warrant Squad and that he was working a case in the vicinity of New York and Georgia Avenues, Northwest, Washington, D.C. "Johnson" stated that he and his partners were being chased by the suspects and that the suspects had begun to "fire" their weapons at Johnson and his partners from their vehicle.

According to the Commander at the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Communications Center, they too had received phone calls from an individual identifying himself as "Deputy U.S. Marshal Johnson" since approximately 1:18 a.m. that same morning. According to the MPD official, "Johnson" called the MPD Communications Center several times claiming to be a Deputy U.S. Marshal. He stated that "shots" had been fired and that he needed additional immediate police assistance. The MPD Communications Center was able to obtain a telephone number from the caller identification system that displayed when "Johnson" called. The number on the system was identified as Edwin Gerard Johnson's cellular telephone.

In response to the calls for assistance from "Deputy U.S. Marshal Johnson," the MPD dispatched several police units to assist "Johnson" and his partners. Several MPD units were diverted from previous residential calls for service to assist "Johnson" consistent with the standard procedure followed by dispatchers to divert all available police units from routine assignments to assist officers when a "priority run" call, or "10-33" (police officer needs assistance) call is received.

On February 16, 2005, in addition to his calls to the MPD Communications Center, "Johnson" contacted an MPD dispatcher and identified himself as a "Deputy U.S. Marshal Johnson." "Johnson" asked her to provide him with information about an individual he identified by name. He further indicated that he had already run the individual's name through the Washington Area Law Enforcement System (WALES), National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) and the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) and was trying to get a warrant executed for a prostitution related offense. The WALES and the information derived from it is accessible only to law enforcement officers.

On March 31, 2005, a U.S. Park Police Detective was flagged down and notified by a female prostitute that she was approached by a male driving a car in the 1400 block K Street, NW, Washington, D.C. She told him that after she entered the vehicle, the driver told her that he was a Deputy United States Marshal looking for a wanted person. The driver drove her out of the area and asked her if she "was going to pay her way back?" The female stated no and the driver told her that she would have to either pay, go to jail, or have sex without a condom. The female gave the driver \$40.00 dollars and refused to have sex with him. The driver drove her back to the area where he initially picked her up, and then threatened her by telling her that he would return in approximately one hour and that she better have \$300.00 dollars for him or he would beat her, arrest her or have sex with her without a condom. While the detective spoke with the victim, the driver contacted her via cellular telephone. The telephone indicated that the incoming call was made from Edwin Gerard Johnson's cellular telephone.



The defendant was identified after he re-entered the block where he threatened the victim. When the detective saw the signal, he attempted to stop the vehicle using his emergency lights and audible siren, but the driver accelerated and fled. The chase proceeded through the streets of the District of Columbia and ended in Charles County, Maryland, where the defendant, Edwin Gerard Johnson, was arrested and charged with Fleeing to Evade Law Enforcement, Reckless Driving, and Operating on a Suspended License.

Edwin Gerald Johnson was later played a portion of the 911 audio tapes from the February 16, 2005 incident and positively identified himself as the caller. He admitted that he was the "Ed Johnson" that had represented himself as a Deputy U.S. Marshal in the early morning hours of on or about February 16, 2005, when he contacted the MPD Communications Center so that he would receive a priority response from the MPD as an "officer needs assistance." Johnson further stated that he believed that by identifying himself as a Deputy U.S. Marshal he would get a faster or better police response than had he identified himself as a citizen. He also admitted that he contacted a dispatcher and represented himself as a Deputy U.S. Marshal in order to obtain information on an individual that he was looking for who was allegedly "wanted" on an arrest warrant so that he could be paid for locating him.

**Wilbert Brodie, 49, of Mount Rainier, Maryland, was sentenced to a term of 57 months in prison by United States District Judge Ellen S. Huvelle. Brodie was also ordered to pay \$355,449.70 in restitution. Brodie was convicted in January 2005 by a federal jury on charges of conspiracy and wire fraud in connection with a scheme to receive inflated loans from various mortgage lenders.**

According to the government's evidence, between December 1995 and July 1997, Brodie used his company, InterCommunication Network, to buy nine shell or distressed properties in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. In each instance, Brodie then used bogus paperwork, including an inflated appraisal, to obtain a mortgage loan far in excess of the property's true market value. As a result, Brodie received and spent over \$850,000 in loans. Brodie later defaulted on these loans, thereby causing the lenders to suffer losses of several hundred thousand dollars.

Five additional defendants have previously been convicted and sentenced as part of this investigation. Olurotimi Padonu, 42, Columbia, Maryland, was sentenced on July 13, 2005, to a prison term of 16 months in prison, and ordered to pay \$976,129.19 in restitution. Esther Stroy Harper, 51, Temple Hills Maryland, was sentenced on July 13, 2005, to eight months in prison, and ordered to pay \$1,042,155.98 in restitution. Heralda Duan Avery, 32, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, was sentenced on June 13, 2005, to 13 years of probation, and ordered to pay \$453,289.45 in restitution. Robin D. Beale, 42, Washington, D.C., was sentenced on July 13, 2005, to five years of probation, and ordered to pay \$410,802.77 in restitution. Lastly, Sarafa A. Kareem, 37, Baltimore, Maryland, was sentenced on February 17, 2005, to four years of probation.

**On August 4, 2005, United States District Judge Ricardo M. Urbina sentenced Asher Karni, 51, of Cape Town, South Africa, to 36 months of incarceration. In September 2004, Karni pled guilty to five-count Information charging him with conspiracy and export violations arising out of his unlawful exports of U.S. origin commodities that are controlled for nuclear non-proliferation reasons to Pakistan and India. Karni faced a sentencing range of 87 to 108 months under the United States Sentencing Guidelines. However, Judge Urbina reduced his sentence to reflect Karni's substantial assistance to the government.**

"Yesterday's sentencing shows that a prison cell awaits anyone who illegally trades in technology with military and nuclear applications," said Kenneth L. Wainstein, United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. "Our law enforcement personnel and their counterparts overseas will spare no effort to stamp out the global threat posed by this black market trade."

"Countering nuclear proliferation is a top priority of the Commerce Department's export control enforcement efforts," said Wendy L. Wysong, Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement. "This wide-ranging and thorough investigation and prosecution highlights both the Department's ability to use our unique knowledge to bring those who enable the spread of nuclear weapons related technology to justice, and the partnership between the Commerce Department and industry to keep the most sensitive U.S. commodities out of the most dangerous hands."

"The proliferation of nuclear components is not only a homeland security threat, but a global threat. This case in particular raised serious concerns. The technology involved, the destination of these goods, and the clear efforts to disguise the trail of the shipments raised the stakes even higher," said Michael J. Garcia, Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

According to the criminal information to which Karni pled guilty, he was the owner of a firm in Cape Town, South Africa, known as Top-Cape Technology ("Top-Cape"), which specialized in the import and export of high-end electronics products. Sometime around 2002, Humayun Khan, the owner and chief executive officer of an Islamabad, Pakistan, business known as Pakland PME Corporation ("Pakland") approached Karni and inquired whether Karni would help him acquire certain models of oscilloscopes manufactured by Tektronix, Inc. ("Tektronix"), of Beaverton, Oregon. Because these particular models of oscilloscopes have applications in the testing and development of nuclear weapons and missile delivery systems, the Department of Commerce requires anyone seeking to export them to certain countries, including Pakistan, to obtain a license. Khan, who was an authorized distributor for Tektronix in Pakistan, was well aware of that licensing requirement.

Karni agreed to assist Khan in obtaining the Tektronix oscilloscopes, even though Khan told him that they were subject to U.S. export controls and warned him not to disclose the true destination of the products.

In March 2003, Karni obtained one of the models of controlled oscilloscopes from a firm in Plainview, New York. He directed that the firm send the oscilloscope to Top-Cape in Cape Town, South Africa. Shortly after its arrival in South Africa, Karni re-exported the product to a

company in Pakistan that Khan had designated. At no time during this transaction did either Karni or Khan obtain a license from the Department of Commerce in the District of Columbia for this export to Pakistan.

In August 2003, Karni acquired two additional controlled Tektronix oscilloscopes in the United States and diverted them to a Khan customer in Pakistan through South Africa without obtaining the necessary license. In addition, throughout 2003, Karni and Khan worked to fill a \$1.3 million order for controlled Tektronix oscilloscopes for a third Khan client in Pakistan.

In June 2003, Khan sent e-mail to Karni asking him to purchase triggered spark gaps for a customer in Pakistan. Triggered spark gaps are high-speed electrical switches that are often used in a medical device known as a lithotripter, which doctors utilize in treating kidney stones. Triggered spark gaps also have military applications. One such application is as a detonator for nuclear weapons. Accordingly, the Department of Commerce controls the export of triggered spark gaps to certain countries, including Pakistan, for nuclear non-proliferation reasons. Exports of triggered spark gaps to South Africa, unlike Pakistan, are not prohibited.

The triggered spark gaps that Khan sought were manufactured by Perkin Elmer Optoelectronics of Salem, Massachusetts ("Perkin Elmer"). At Khan's direction, Karni first made inquiries of Perkin Elmer's French sales representative. The sales representative quoted Karni a price, but also advised him that the spark gaps required a U.S. export license and that Karni needed to certify both that the product would remain in South Africa and that it would not be used for any nuclear purposes. Karni forwarded this information to Khan and initially declined to pursue the order. Khan, however, prevailed upon Karni to continue to find a source for the triggered spark gaps.

In July 2003, an anonymous source informed agents of the Office of Export Enforcement (OEE) of the Department of Commerce and ICE that Karni was in the process of using a broker in Secaucus, New Jersey, to obtain 200 Perkin Elmer triggered spark gaps for ultimate shipment to Pakistan through South Africa. The agents approached Perkin Elmer, which agreed to cooperate in the investigation and to render inoperable the triggered spark gaps that the New Jersey broker was in the process of ordering.

In October 2003, the OEE and ICE agents were able to track the first installment of 66 triggered spark gaps as the package traveled from the United States to Top-Cape in South Africa and then on to Pakistan through the United Arab Emirates.

As a result of outstanding cooperation between U.S. and South African law enforcement agencies, a key break in the investigation came on December 11, 2003. On that date, OEE and ICE agents searched the offices in New Jersey of the broker that Karni was using to acquire the triggered spark gaps. Simultaneously, in coordination with U.S. authorities, members of the South African Police Service executed a search warrant at Karni's office in Cape Town, South Africa, which led to the seizure of emails and documents that furthered this investigation.

On January 1, 2004, agents arrested Karni as he entered the United States at Denver International Airport. On September 14, 2004, he pled guilty under seal to five federal felonies,

including conspiracy to export controlled nuclear technology items to Pakistan. He also agreed to cooperate with the on-going investigation. On April 6, 2005, a federal grand jury sitting in the District of Columbia returned a four-count indictment-charging Khan with conspiracy and export violations.

**Lisa Strickland, 39, a former D.C. Office of Finance and Treasury (OFT) employee who was assigned to work at the Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV) main office at 301 C Street, NW, was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Rosemary M. Collyer to 18 months of imprisonment to be followed by two years of supervised release. The Court also required her to pay \$200,000 in restitution to the D.C. government.**

Strickland, of the 3100 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NE, previously pled guilty to a pattern of accepting bribe payments in exchange for her issuing motor vehicle registrations, tags, and titles, and overriding unpaid tickets, which resulted in a loss to the D.C. government in excess of \$200,000.

According to the government's proffer of evidence at the plea hearing, between March 2002 and October 2003, Strickland, in exchange for money, would issue temporary or permanent vehicle registrations; tags and titles at reduced rates or no fee at all. She did this by lowering the value of a vehicle in the DMV computer system to reduce the amount of excise tax required to be paid before registering that vehicle, or overriding unpaid tickets in the DMV computer system so a vehicle owner could obtain a vehicle registration without paying the tickets before such registration. In return, she received hundreds of dollars for numerous transactions per month from individuals or car dealers seeking vehicle registrations. Strickland would sometimes suggest to the individual seeking a registration how much the individual should pay her personally. Sometimes the individual would simply offer the money to her for her services. Strickland either accepted the bribes while on-site at the DMV, or she would schedule the transactions to take place after she had left the facility for the day.

### **U.S. Attorney's Office Web site**

The United States Attorney's Office maintains a web site with additional information concerning Office personnel and activities. The web site is: [www.DCcommunityprosecution.gov](http://www.DCcommunityprosecution.gov)

**The Following Report, Titled “Papered Arrests”  
Contains Details on Arrests and Charges Filed  
Against Defendants in this District.**

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE PAPERED COMMUNITY PROSECUTION  
PAPERED ARRESTS**

**Criteria Entered; Arrest Date: 08/01/2005 - 08/31/2005, District: 2D, Sort: PSA, Arrest Date**

<b>PSA</b>	<b>ARREST DATE</b>	<b>CCN</b>	<b>PAPERD LEAD CHARGE &amp; AUSA'S NAME</b>	<b>DEFENDANT'S NAME</b>	<b>PAPERED CASES</b>	<b>SECTION ASSIGNMENT &amp; LOCATION OF OFFENSE</b>
201	08/31/2005 14:00	05118003	UCSA POSS MARIJUANA	SMITH, RONALD L	M0921305	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 5300 NEBRASKA AVE NW
202	08/01/2005 18:30	05102422	SHOPLIFTING ELIZABETH A. BARNES	STEPANOVA, MARYNA	M0838205	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 4350 JENIFER ST NW
202	08/03/2005 13:45	05103328	THEFT 2ND DEGREE SCHARN ROBINSON	STETTAN, MARIE J	M0804505	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 5300 WISCONSIN AVE NW
202	08/08/2005 15:40	05026351	UCSA POSS MARIJUANA	FICKE, JOSEPH C	M0834405	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION FORT RENO PARK, NW
202	08/12/2005 21:15	05106782	THEFT 1ST DEGREE JOCELYN S. BALLANTINE	SMITH, CHRIZTOPHER E	F0460205	5300 WISCONSIN AVE NW
202	08/15/2005 14:50	05109485	THEFT 2ND DEGREE	GALE, AKEEM W	M0853505	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 5300 WISCONSIN AVE NW
202	08/28/2005 18:40	05116558	THEFT 2ND DEGREE RHONDA L. CAMPBELL	CHUNKO, MARY T	M0909905	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 5300 WISCONSIN AVE NW

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203	08/02/2005 14:08	05102805	SIMPLE ASSAULT BRANDI KING GARCIA	FEDA, KEBEDE T	M0800305	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 3521 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE
203	08/22/2005 21:41	05028179	UCSA POSS MARIJUANA	PLESSER, JEREMY	M0923305	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION ROCK CREEK PARK GROVE #2
204	08/11/2005 08:15	05098588	THEFT 2ND DEGREE EMILY A. MILLER	JOHNSON, REGINALD L	M0836305	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 4100 CATHEDRAL AVE N.W.
204	08/15/2005 17:00	05109548	DEST OF PROPERTY	HITAFFER, THOMAS E	M0861205	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 2400 CONNECTICUT AVE NW
204	08/16/2005 12:05	05107934	UTTERING STEPHANIE G. MILLER	REED, DAVID	F0466905	GRAND JURY SECTION 500 INDIANA AVE.N.W.
204	08/23/2005 19:45	05113905	UCSA POSS MARIJUANA MARGARET A. SEWELL	BARNES, JOSHUA W	M0884205	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 3600 QUEBEC ST NW
204	08/24/2005 13:00	05002075	THEFT 1ST DEGREE JOCELYN S. BALLANTINE	DONELSON, JOHN W	F0490005	GRAND JURY SECTION 2800 QUEBEC STREET N.W.

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205	08/02/2005 21:10	05103036	SIMPLE ASSAULT	GIBSON, DAMON L	M0824605	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 4550 MACARTHUR BLVD NW
205	08/04/2005 22:30	05104129	SEXUAL SOLICITATION ANTOINETTE M. SAKAMSA	KANG, HYE K	M0808705	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 4380 MACARTHUR BLVD NW
205	08/05/2005 02:30	05104176	UCSA POSS HEROIN	PETTIS, THOMAS J	M0812105	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 4400 MASS AVE NW
205	08/17/2005 13:20	05110581	UNLAWFUL ENTRY BRANDI KING GARCIA	HUGULEY, LAMAR	M0860105	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 805 21 STREET NW
206	08/13/2005 17:06	05108544	THEFT 2ND DEGREE PEGGY G. BENNETT	JONES, DAVID A	M0848605	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 1726 WISC AVE NW
206	08/14/2005 02:19	05108815	SIMPLE ASSAULT BRANDI KING GARCIA	FREDERICKS, MELISSA M	M0848805	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 1665 35TH STREET NW
206	08/14/2005 20:08	05109141	THEFT 2ND DEGREE	CHOI, EUI R	M0888805	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 3111 M ST NW



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<b>PSA</b>	<b>ARREST DATE</b>	<b>CCN</b>	<b>PAPERD LEAD CHARGE &amp; AUSA'S NAME</b>	<b>DEFENDANT'S NAME</b>	<b>PAPERED CASES</b>	<b>SECTION ASSIGNMENT &amp; LOCATION OF OFFENSE</b>
206	08/17/2005 23:01	05110846	ROBBERY JOCELYN S. BALLANTINE	WIGGINS, ANTHONY D	F0469805	GRAND JURY SECTION 1236 27TH STREET NW
206	08/18/2005 00:20	05110846	ROBBERY JOCELYN S. BALLANTINE	MURRAY, CORNELL T	F0469905	GRAND JURY SECTION 1236 27TH STREET NW
206	08/18/2005 20:55	05111345	UCSA POSS MARIJUANA	DANIELS, OLUKUNUE W	M0931305	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 2400 BLK P ST NW
206	08/22/2005 16:30	05111222	THEFT 2ND DEGREE	WINGARD, LARONDA Y	M0927705	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 3111 M ST NW
206	08/22/2005 16:30	05111222	UCSA POSS MARIJUANA	DANIELS, OLUKUNUE W	M0931305	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 3111 M ST NW
206	08/23/2005 19:15	05113865	DEST OF PROPERTY SCHARN ROBINSON	MURPHY, RICKY R	M0886505	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 2600 BLK PA AVE NW
206	08/27/2005 16:10	05115999	UCSA POSSESS PCP PEGGY G. BENNETT	HARRIS, KEVIN L	M0904605	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 1200 BLK WISC AVE NW

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206	08/29/2005 02:51	05116711	DEST OF PROPERTY KACIE MCCOY WESTON	ROGERS, ROSALIND G	M0910205	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 900 WISCONSIN AVE NW
207	08/01/2005 02:25	05102080	SIMPLE ASSAULT WILLIAM RUBENS	NUGENT, BRENDAN K	M0794205	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 2500 PENNSYLVANIA AVE NW
207	08/08/2005 01:43	05105648	BURGLARY I JOCELYN S. BALLANTINE	JOHNSON, JOHN E	F0449005	GRAND JURY SECTION 1121 24TH STREET NW, APT. 405
207	08/10/2005 14:40	05106900	SIMPLE ASSAULT	SPEROFF, JEREMY L	M0831205	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 1101 24TH ST NW
207	08/13/2005 00:10	05108217	UCSA POSS MARIJUANA	DHADLI, JASPREET S	M0869505	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 800 25TH ST NW
207	08/13/2005 00:15	05108215	UCSA POSS MARIJUANA KACIE MCCOY WESTON	CHAMMANY, BOBBY N	M0869405	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 800 25TH ST NW
207	08/14/2005 03:00	05018839	SIMPLE ASSAULT	HARRIS, VICTOR L	M0860805	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 2600 BLOCK PENNSYLVANIA

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207	08/14/2005 03:00	05018839	SIMPLE ASSAULT	HARRIS, ANDRE L	M0860905	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 2600 BLOCK PENNSYLVANIA
207	08/14/2005 03:00	05108839	SIMPLE ASSAULT	HOLLOMAN, DARNESHA L	M0861005	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 2600 PA AVE NW
207	08/20/2005 08:45	05112165	ARSON JOCELYN S. BALLANTINE	FIGUEROA, ANGELO	F0480205	GRAND JURY SECTION 532 20TH ST NW
207	08/22/2005 06:45	05028090	UNLAWFUL ENTRY BRANDI KING GARCIA	FERGUSON, TOMITHY	M0877405	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 1700 BLOCK INDEPENDENCE
207	08/24/2005 14:52	05114240	SIMPLE ASSAULT	COTTON, DORETHA	M0889505	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 1800 G ST NW
207	08/25/2005 23:35	05115096	SEXUAL SOLICITATION ELIZABETH A. BARNES	SHETRON, CARMA E	M0895805	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 2800 BLK PA AVE NW
207	08/27/2005 03:15	05115745	DEST OF PROPERTY WILLIAM RUBENS	RAGSDALE, JEFFERY	M0903505	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 1100 26TH ST NW

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207	08/27/2005 03:15	05115745	THEFT 2ND DEGREE WILLIAM RUBENS	BAUTISTA, CHIARA F	M0903605	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 1100 26TH ST NW
207	08/30/2005 05:30	05108304	SIMPLE ASSAULT	HAWKINS, STEVEN M	M0913905	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 2525 PENNSYLVANIA AVE N.
207	08/31/2005 06:25	05117836	DEST OF PROPERTY	FREED, BRIAN S	M0919505	SC, MISDEMEANOR SECTION 2020 F STREET N.W.